

# SENATE BILL 284

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By: **Chair, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee (By Request – Departmental – Education)**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2011

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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Committee Report: Favorable

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 8, 2011

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education – High School Graduation Records – Collection, Maintenance,**  
3 **Analysis, and Reporting**

4 FOR the purpose of altering the Maryland high school graduation rate formula and  
5 ethnic and racial categories in the formula to be consistent with certain federal  
6 regulations and guidelines; defining a certain term; repealing a certain annual  
7 reporting requirement; and generally relating to the collection, maintenance,  
8 analysis, and reporting of Maryland high school graduation records.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
10 Article – Education  
11 Section 7–203.2  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland  
13 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2010 Supplement)

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
15 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

16 **Article – Education**

17 7–203.2.

18 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike-out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1           (2)   (i)    [“Four–year cohort” means a group of students who enter  
2 ninth grade together.] **“FOUR–YEAR ADJUSTED COHORT” MEANS A GROUP OF**  
3 **STUDENTS WHO ARE ENTERING THE NINTH GRADE FOR THE FIRST TIME FROM A**  
4 **COHORT THAT IS SUBSEQUENTLY ADJUSTED BY ADDING ANY STUDENTS WHO**  
5 **TRANSFER INTO THE COHORT LATER DURING THE NINTH GRADE AND THE NEXT**  
6 **THREE YEARS AND SUBTRACTING ANY STUDENTS WHO TRANSFER OUT,**  
7 **EMIGRATE TO ANOTHER COUNTRY, OR DIE DURING THAT SAME PERIOD.**

8                           (ii)   “Four–year **ADJUSTED** cohort” also includes [a student who:  
9  
1.   Transfers into the group:  
10           A.   During the ninth grade of the group’s first year in  
11 high school;  
12           B.   During the tenth grade of the group’s second year in  
13 high school;  
14           C.   During the eleventh grade of the group’s third year in  
15 high school; or  
16           D.   During the twelfth grade of the group’s fourth year in  
17 high school;  
18           2.   Is retained in grade; or  
19           3.   Is enrolled in a GED program.

20                           (iii)   “Four–year cohort” does not include a student who:  
21           1.   Dies before graduation;  
22           2.   Transfers out of the group; or  
23           3.   The county board confirms has permanently left the  
24 United States.

25                           (iv)   Students] **STUDENTS** retained in grade [are] **AND** only  
26 counted once as members of their original cohort.

27           (3)   “Graduation rate” means the percentage obtained from applying  
28 the graduation rate formula.

29           (4)   (i)    “Graduation rate formula” means the number of students  
30 who graduate on time with a Maryland high school diploma divided by the number of  
31 students in the four–year **ADJUSTED** cohort.

1 (ii) "Graduation rate formula" does not include students who  
2 graduate on time with a GED or other certificate not aligned with State standards.

3 (5) (i) "On time" means on or before the conclusion of a four-year  
4 **ADJUSTED** cohort's fourth year of high school.

5 (ii) "On time" includes a senior summer session in a jurisdiction  
6 that offers senior summer sessions.

7 (6) (i) "Transfer out" means a student who the county board  
8 confirms, via written documentation, has enrolled in another high school or other  
9 educational program from which that student is expected to receive a Maryland high  
10 school diploma.

11 (ii) "Transfer out" does not include a student enrolled in:

12 1. A GED program; or

13 2. An alternative education program that does not issue  
14 or provide credits toward a Maryland high school diploma.

15 (b) The purpose of this section is to:

16 (1) Initiate a process by which the State may achieve the goal of  
17 collecting, maintaining, analyzing, and publicly reporting data relating to the  
18 graduation rates of students in public high schools as an essential step in addressing  
19 gaps in educational achievement among a diverse student population; and

20 (2) Explicitly delineate the duties and responsibilities of the  
21 Department and the county boards in this regard.

22 (c) (1) Beginning on or before September 1, 2011, and each year  
23 thereafter, a county board shall:

24 (i) Collect, maintain, and analyze graduation rates for public  
25 schools, local school systems, and the State; and

26 (ii) Report the information required under item (i) of this  
27 paragraph to[:

28 1. The public] **THE PUBLIC AND THE DEPARTMENT** in  
29 the aggregate and disaggregated by [American Indian, African American, Hispanic,  
30 White, Asian/Pacific Islander, students who are limited English proficient, students  
31 who receive free and reduced priced meals, and students who receive special education  
32 services; and

33 2. The Department]:

- 1                                   **1.    HISPANIC OR LATINO OF ANY RACE;**
- 2                                   **2.    FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE NONHISPANIC OR**  
3 **NONLATINO ONLY:**
- 4                                   **A.    AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKA NATIVE;**
- 5                                   **B.    ASIAN;**
- 6                                   **C.    BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN;**
- 7                                   **D.    NATIVE HAWAIIAN OR OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDER;**
- 8                                   **E.    WHITE; OR**
- 9                                   **F.    TWO OR MORE RACES;**
- 10                                  **3.    STUDENTS WHO ARE LIMITED ENGLISH**  
11 **PROFICIENT;**
- 12                                  **4.    STUDENTS WHO RECEIVE FREE AND REDUCED**  
13 **PRICED MEALS; AND**
- 14                                  **5.    STUDENTS WHO RECEIVE SPECIAL EDUCATION**  
15 **SERVICES.**

16                                  (2)    Beginning on or before October 1, 2011, and each year thereafter,  
17 the Department shall:

18                                   (i)    Compile the information received under paragraph (1) of  
19 this subsection and calculate a graduation rate for the State; and

20                                   (ii)   Post the information obtained under this subsection for each  
21 county on its website in the aggregate and disaggregated by [American Indian, African  
22 American, Hispanic, White, Asian/Pacific Islander, students who are limited English  
23 proficient, students who receive free and reduced priced meals, and students who  
24 receive special education services]:

- 25                                   **1.    HISPANIC OR LATINO OF ANY RACE;**
- 26                                   **2.    FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE NONHISPANIC OR**  
27 **NONLATINO ONLY:**
- 28                                   **A.    AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKA NATIVE;**

- 1                   **B. ASIAN;**
- 2                   **C. BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN;**
- 3                   **D. NATIVE HAWAIIAN OR OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDER;**
- 4                   **E. WHITE; OR**
- 5                   **F. TWO OR MORE RACES;**
- 6                   **3. STUDENTS WHO ARE LIMITED ENGLISH**  
7 **PROFICIENT;**
- 8                   **4. STUDENTS WHO RECEIVE FREE AND REDUCED**  
9 **PRICED MEALS; AND**
- 10                   **5. STUDENTS WHO RECEIVE SPECIAL EDUCATION**  
11 **SERVICES.**

12           (d) (1) The county boards and the Department may develop and  
13 implement additional indicators to collect, maintain, analyze, and publicly report data  
14 regarding alternative high school completions.

15           (2) The Department shall ensure that the information collected under  
16 paragraph (1) of this subsection is comparable for public schools and local school  
17 systems in the State.

18           (e) The Department shall:

19           (1) Implement training for administrators and other personnel  
20 responsible for collecting, maintaining, analyzing, and publicly reporting data  
21 regarding four-year **ADJUSTED** cohorts and graduation rates;

22           (2) Implement a standard process for verifying the accuracy of data  
23 including:

24           (i) Statistical checks and analyses; and

25           (ii) On-site audits of record-keeping procedures;

26           (3) Implement a public awareness campaign including outreach to  
27 civic associations, community-based groups, and parent organizations and the  
28 solicitation of suggestions and community support regarding the need for collecting,  
29 maintaining, analyzing, and publicly reporting accurate data regarding four-year  
30 **ADJUSTED** cohorts and graduation rates;

1           (4) Provide technical support to the county boards with collecting,  
2 maintaining, analyzing, and publicly reporting graduation rate data; and

3           (5) Serve as a central repository for this data.

4           [(f) (1) On or before November 1 of each year, the State Board shall report  
5 to the Governor and, subject to § 2–1246 of the State Government Article, to the  
6 General Assembly, regarding:

7                   (i) The implementation of this section;

8                   (ii) Statistical analyses and data verification processes  
9 developed under this section; and

10                   (iii) Discrepancies discovered while collecting, maintaining,  
11 analyzing, and publicly reporting the information required under this section.

12           (2) The report required under this subsection shall be posted on the  
13 Department’s website.]

14           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
15 July 1, 2011.

Approved:

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Governor.

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President of the Senate.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.